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BOROUGH OF



STALYBRIDGE.

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

1944

JAMES GORMAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

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BOROUGH OF STALYBRIDGE.

COMMITTEES. (December, 1944).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman	-	-	-	Councillor A. Allen.
Deputy Chairman	-	-	-	Councillor J. M. Twigge.
The Mayor (ex-officio)	-	-	-	Councillor J. H. I. Radcliffe, J.P.
Alderman Williams, J.P., C.C., M.B., Ch. B.				
Councillor Abrahams,				Councillor Moore,
„ Carr,				„ Porter,
„ Harris,				„ Slack,
„ Hewitt,				„ West.
„ Hudson,				„ Wilson.
„ Mrs. Illingworth,				

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman	-	-	Alderman Williams, J.P., C.C., M.B., Ch.B.
Deputy Chairman	-	-	Councillor Sidebottom.
The Mayor (ex-officio)	-	-	Councillor J. H. I. Radcliffe, J.P.
Alderman J. Wilson, J.P.			
Councillor Abrahams,			*Mrs. Harris,
„ Harris,			*Mrs. McCarthy,
„ Mrs. Illingworth			*Mrs. Sykes,
„ Slack,			*Mrs. Tonge,
„ Mellor,			*Mrs. Walker.
„ Twigge,			
„ West,			

*Co-opted Member.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MATERNITY AND
CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department for the year 1944. This report is largely statistical in as much as I, having no personal knowledge of events occurring in Stalybridge during the year, am in no position to provide much in the nature of commentary.

In June, 1945, when your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Gorman, left on War service, the Registrar General's figures had not been received. Consequently, preparation of this report had, of necessity, to be deferred and this accounts not only for its late appearance but also for the fact that I, rather than Dr. Gorman, am presenting it to you.

In the circumstances you will appreciate that the production of this report is largely the work of the staff of the Health Department to whom I tender my thanks and appreciation.

I feel that Dr. Gorman would wish me to express on his behalf his indebtedness to the Chairmen and Members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the co-operation afforded by them during the year.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. E. HOCKEN,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Stalybridge

September, 1945.

STAFF CHANGES.

The staff remains as in 1943, with the addition of Miss H. Taylor, appointed as Junior Assistant in the Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	3,190
Population Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	24,831
Population, 1944 (Mid-year estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	20,610
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	£130,526
Estimated amount of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£508

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The livebirth rate of 17.37, shows a slight increase as compared with the rate for 1943 of 16.99, while the crude death rate of 14.65, shows a decrease against last year's figure of 16.99.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 17 deaths of infants under one year of age, one more than last year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 47.48 as against 46.00 in 1943.

TABLE I.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1944 (Provisional figures).
(The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population but for London and the towns to civilians only.)

	Rate per 1000 Total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1000 Population.								Rate per 1000 Live Births.			
	Live Births.	Still-births.	All causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths under one year.		
England and Wales.....	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.8	46		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	7.3	52		
148 Smaller Towns(1931 Adjusted Populations, 25,000—50,000)	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	4.4	44		
London	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	10.1	61		
Stalybridge	17.37	0.63	14.6	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	2.8	47		
Maternal mortality rate for England and Wales per 1000 Total Births ..												Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
												0.31	1.25	1.56

TABLE II.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH

No.	GROUP CAUSE OF DEATH.	M.	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	...	...	...
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	...	...	...
3.	Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...
4.	Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...
5.	Diphtheria .....	...	...	...
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	7	1	8
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	3	4
8.	Syphilitic disease .....	...	1	1
9.	Influenza	2	...	2
10.	Measles .....	...	...	...
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis .....	...	...	...
12.	Acute infectious encephalitis .....	...	2	2
13m	Cancer buccal cavity & oesophagus (Males only)	2	...	2
13 f	Cancer of uterus .....	...	2	2
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	5	9
15.	Cancer of breast.....	...	6	6
16.	Cancer of other sites	13	13	26
17.	Diabetes	1	1	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	21	33
19.	Heart disease	26	52	78
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1	4
21.	Bronchitis	19	30	49
22.	Pneumonia	5	7	12
23.	Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
24.	Ulceration of stomach or duodenum	1	...	1
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	...	1
26.	Appendicitis	1	...	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	2	5	7
28.	Nephritis	4	2	6
29.	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.....	...	...	...
30.	Other maternal causes .....	...	...	...
31.	Premature birth .....	...	...	...
32.	Congenital malformations, etc.....	3	6	9
33.	Suicide	2	2	4
34.	Road traffic accidents	1	...	1
35.	Other violent causes	3	1	4
36.	All other causes	10	16	26
	ALL CAUSES.	124	178	302

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

BACTERIOLOGY.

SWABS.

69 swabs were examined for B. Diphtheriæ and of these, 10 faucial were found positive.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Adequate supervision has been exercised over the farms in the district and over the products of such outside producers as come into the Borough. Close co-operation has in addition been maintained with the Cheshire War Agricultural Executive Committee.

Improvements were made during the year at two farms. In one case new drainage was laid and a new dairy and steam sterilizer installed while at another farm an old building was re-modelled to form a new two-stalled shippon and this farm has now been registered by the Committee for the production of milk.

The milk samples taken during the year, with the results, were as follows :—

	Samples taken.	Number Satisfactory.
Methylene Blue Test	26	25
B. Tuberculosis	26	25
B. Coli	27	21

Appropriate action was taken where unsatisfactory results were returned.

PASTEURIZED MILK.

12 Phosphatase tests all provided satisfactory results.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following list of samples, details of which were supplied by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Cheshire County Council, were obtained in the Borough of Stalybridge during the year ended 31st December, 1944 :—

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Reported against.
Milks	47	1
Vinegar	2	...
Mustard	2	...

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Reported against.
Ginger Wine	1	...
Gravy Powder	1	...
Gravy Browning	1	...
Gelatine	3	...
Tea	1	...
Sugar	2	...
Cheese	2	...
Butter	2	...
Margarine	2	...
Lard	1	...
Beer	2	...
Whisky	7	1
Bacon	1	...
Cooking Fat	1	...
Baking Powder	1	...
Sage and Onion Stuffing ...	1	...
Glycerine and Borax B.P....	1	...
	<hr/> 81 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

The unsatisfactory milk sample was deficient in fat while the whisky sample contained an excess of water.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year, 2 chemical and 4 bacteriological water samples were taken and the results returned were considered satisfactory.

Information supplied by the Waterworks Engineer shows that 12 samples were taken, 6 at the Filters and 6 at the Reservoir. All were found satisfactory bacteriologically.

Regarding plumbo-solvency, 22 tap samples were taken during the year all with negative results.

The adequacy of the water supply would not appear to be in doubt.

In addition to the main water supply of the Borough there is, in the Millbrook district, a small supply serving 185 houses derived from a small reservoir fed by a series of springs on the adjacent hillside. This water is chlorinated and during the year two bacteriological samples and one chemical sample were taken the results being satisfactory in each case.

In the above-mentioned supplies, water is, in all cases, delivered direct to the houses. There are no stand-pipes.

57 farms and cottages on the higher ground of the outlying parts of the Borough are supplied by spring water.

During the year no action was called for in respect of any form of contamination.

INSULIN.

A free supply of Insulin was approved by the Council under Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936, two persons being supplied during the year.

CIVIL AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The operation of the Civil Ambulance Service was transferred to the Public Health Committee on the disbandment of the Civil Defence Service towards the end of the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

HOME HELPS.

The scheme prepared and approved under Section 204 of the Public Health Act, 1936, continued, as described in the previous report, in a state of suspended animation.

ADOPTION.

The Adoption of Children (Regulations) Act, 1939, came into force on 1st June, 1943, and the number of children on the Register at the end of the year was 6.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The position remains substantially as detailed in the last report.

NURSES' ACT, 1943.

The Cheshire County Council have delegated their powers to the local authority under Section 8, regarding the licencing of agencies for the supply of nurses.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The number of cases attended by midwives during the year :—

(1) As Midwives	121
(2) As Maternity Nurses	56
Miscarriages	2

The number of cases during the year in which medical aid was summoned under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1918, was 50.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

(PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936).

377 notifications of births were received during the year relating to 364 livebirths and 13 stillbirths. These figures compare with 339 livebirths and 15 stillbirths notified during the previous year.

202 cases were confined in institutions — in other words more than half the children born in Stalybridge during the year were born in hospital.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year 94 cases were seen and 284 attendances in all were made.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

41 new cases were seen and a total of 50 attendances was made.

The Medical Officer in charge of these clinics, Dr.W.E.C.Thomas, reports that the work has been most satisfactory.

INFANT CONSULTATION CENTRE.

Number of Sessions held	102
Total number of Attendances of Infants ...	5553
Average Attendance per Session	54
Total number of children who attended the Centre for the first time during the year :—	
(a) Under 1 year of age	217
(b) Between 1 and 5 years... ..	48
Total number of children who were attending the Centre at the close of the year :—	
(a) Under 1 year of age	194
(b) Between 1 and 5 years	350
Percentage of Infants receiving food sold at Clinics	74

ATTENDANCES AT CENTRE.

	0—1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years
1st Visits	217	23	8	12	5
Subsequent Visits	3637	830	291	223	88
Number seen by M.O. ...	481	138	73	62	44

SALE OF FOODS.

The principal sales made at the Clinics were :—

7047 packets of dried milk.
145 lbs. of Virol.
6 pints of Cod Liver Oil.
650 packets of other foods.

The total receipts were £720 : 14 : 5d.

Under the Ministry of Food Scheme, 1,244 bottles of orange juice, 250 bottles of Cod Liver Oil and 186 packets of National Dried Milk were issued at the Clinic during the year.

The sales during the year approximated to those of last year, the increase in the sale of dried milk being more than compensated for by the decrease in the use of National Dried Milk, a decrease which also occurred in the consumption of vitamin products.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

Grateful acknowledgment is made of the assistance given at the Clinics throughout the year by the undermentioned ladies :—

Mrs. Tonge	Mrs. Hebdige
Mrs. Cropper	Mrs. Slack
Mrs. McCarthy	Mrs. Woolley
Mrs. Revell	Mrs. Waugh
Miss Broadbent	Mrs. Roberts.
Mrs. Harris	Mrs. Broadbent.
Mrs. I. Walker	

HEALTH VISITOR'S WORK.

The following is a tabular summary of the visits made by the Health Visitors during the year :—

Number of primary visits to children 0—1 year (following notification of birth)	319
Number of primary visits to transfers of all ages	42
Number of primary visits to evacuees	55
Number of other visits to children 0—1 years	1422
„ of other visits to children 1—2 years	988
„ of other visits to children 2—3 years	716
„ of other visits to children 3—4 years	598
„ of other visits to children 4—5 years	773
„ of visits re infant deaths	13
„ of visits re stillbirths	13
„ of visits re ante-natal cases	10
„ of visits re post-natal cases	1
„ of visits re infectious disease	27
Special visits	29

The total number of visits made during the year fell by 1683 in 1944.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

Number of sessions at which Orthopædic Surgeon was present	11
Number of children examined by Orthopædic Surgeon	192
Number of sessions held	92
Number of attendances made	448

Number of cases on the Register.

Cases from previous years	45
New cases in 1944	51

Removed from the Register in 1944.

Discharged	12
Left district	5
Non-attenders	1

Types of new cases dealt with :—

	Male	Female
Postural deformities	—	—
Genu valgum... ..	13	10
Genu varus	6	2
Pronated feet	9	4
Toe deformities	1	—
Other conditions... ..	3	3
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 19

The work done during the year increased slightly as compared with that of the previous year.

Mr. W. Sayle Creer, the Orthopædic Surgeon, reports as follows :—

“The work of the Orthopædic Service continues. As in the past few years most of its work is preventive that is to say there are many children who come along with minor departures from the normal which, if left, lead to permanent deformities.

I have been struck lately by the number of deformed legs in members of the adult population seen walking about the streets of Stalybridge. I am confident that as a result of the Orthopædic Service such things will disappear as the present generation grows up.

This work of preventing deformities, which are mostly of the lower limbs, is being made very difficult owing to the rather poor quality of footwear which is now being sold and the difficulty the parents ex-

perience in obtaining even poor quality shoes. When the peacetime production gets going again the children's physique should be even better than it is now."

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

Referred for :—	Course		Course not		Still attending	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Debility	10	13	—	3	5	—
Adenitis	2	—	—	—	1	—
Post Infectious Disease... ..	3	2	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	1	—	—	1	—
Genu Valgum	5	5	—	2	1	1
Genu Varus	4	5	—	—	1	—
Other conditions	5	4	1	1	1	—
	29	30	1	6	10	1

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

15 pre-school children attended and spectacles were issued to 6 cases. In all, 31 attendances were made.

As previously, the majority of cases referred, 12, suffered from strabismus

DENTAL CLINIC. The Dental Surgeon, Miss F. I. Wilson, reports:-

WORK OF THE YEAR.

The service has, during the year, continued to offer all facilities for full and extensive dental treatment.

It seems a great pity that all patients attending the ante-natal clinic are not directed to avail themselves of the opportunity of at least a dental inspection to ascertain the precise condition of their mouths. Only three new patients were referred from the ante-natal clinic for dental treatment.

General Anæsthetic Service.

2 general anæsthetics — nitrous oxide and oxygen — were administered.

Provision of Dentures.

3 patients had full upper and lower dentures inserted.

X-Rays.

2 patients were referred to the District Infirmary, Ashton-u-Lyne, for dental radiographs.

DETAILS OF TREATMENT (Ante-Natal).

Number of patients inspected	3
„ of patients requiring treatment	3
„ of patients treated	3
„ of attendances for treatment	51
„ of teeth extracted	28
„ of fillings (permanent teeth)	10
„ of other operations	39
„ of general anæsthetics administered...	2

PRE-SCHOOL.

10 children under 5 years of age were inspected; 6 were found to require treatment.

General anæsthetics were again found to be of great value for these small patients when extractions were necessary.

DETAILS OF TREATMENT. (Pre-School).

Number of children inspected	10
„ requiring treatment	7
„ of children treated	6
„ of attendances for treatment	11
„ of temporary teeth extracted	11
„ of other operations	2
„ of general anæsthetics administered.	3

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

A note of the incidence of the main infectious diseases during the current and previous years is given below :—

	1944.	
	Notified	Confirmed
Diphtheria	22	17
Scarlet Fever	40	38
Tuberculosis (all forms)	28	28
Measles	104	104
Whooping Cough	80	80
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	1
Miscellaneous	27	27
	<hr/> 304	<hr/> 295

	1943.	1942
Diphtheria	59	39
Scarlet Fever	53	20
Tuberculosis (all forms)	23	15
Measles	298	214
Whooping Cough	150	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	2
Miscellaneous	34	36
	<hr/> 620	<hr/> 392

Diphtheria, Measles and Whooping Cough all showed a marked decline in incidence, in the case of the two first mentioned by over fifty per cent. The incidence of Scarlet Fever declined to a much smaller extent.

It will be noted that in some cases, although notifications were made, further examination did not confirm the diagnosis. It should be clearly understood that this in no way casts reflection upon anyone since a case may well be removed on reasonable grounds and when investigated under ideal conditions and with the maximum of medical aids in hospital, it may be found that the condition is not what it would at first appear when viewed in what are very often unsatisfactory domiciliary conditions.

Often a doubtful case of serious infectious disease is from the point of view of itself and the community better treated in hospital and it is essential that everyone concerned with the administration of infectious disease arrangements should bear this clearly in mind.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

In order to cope with contingencies which do from time to time arise, although fortunately infrequently, an arrangement has been arrived at with Manchester to provide — in so far as resources permit — accommodation at Monsall, for occasional cases from Stalybridge.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 321 beds, 234 pillows and bolsters, 1992 blankets and 351 other articles have been dealt with at the Disinfecting Station.

SPECIFIC INFECTIONS.

DIPHTHERIA.

22 notifications were received during the year and of these 17 were confirmed. No deaths occurred.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 28 school, and 192 pre-school, children were completely immunised as compared with 111 school, and 230 pre-school, children in 1943. It is disappointing to note the decline in these figures in view of the widespread publicity given by the Government to immunisation.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Age in years
on 31st Dec.
of the cor-
responding yr.

Persons inoculated each year from 1934-1944.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	4	10	13	4	24	3	38	75	94	101
2—	—	4	8	8	5	15	8	79	91	63	73
3—	—	7	14	11	7	9	3	78	44	39	9
4—	—	11	12	17	2	8	6	76	45	34	9
5—	—	7	13	13	3	6	4	73	41	29	3
6—	—	5	10	28	3	4	—	95	34	16	11
7—	—	6	15	22	1	7	1	95	33	11	7
8—	—	12	10	18	—	2	3	79	30	8	4
9—	—	8	17	22	1	2	1	84	43	5	2
10—	—	12	15	34	2	—	1	90	34	4	—
11—	—	5	7	22	1	3	—	77	3	8	—
12—	—	16	3	25	2	1	—	65	4	14	1
13—	—	6	7	18	1	1	1	72	2	12	—
14—	—	5	—	6	1	2	1	45	2	4	—
15 and over	—	—	2	3	—	—	2	—	—	4	—
Total each yr.	—	108	143	260	33	84	34	1046	481	345	220

Total inoculated aged under five
years on 31st December, 1944

592

Total inoculated aged 5—14 years
on 31st December, 1944

1650

Total inoculated aged 15 years and
over on 31st December, 1944

512

Grand Total 1934-44

2754

(In calculating the totals at the end of 1944 no account is taken of deaths which may have occurred since immunisation).

SCARLET FEVER.

40 cases were notified and of these 23 were removed to hospital. Of this latter number 21 were confirmed.

PNEUMONIA.

10 notifications were received while 12 deaths were certified as being due to this cause. The notification of this disease under ordinary circumstances seems to serve no useful purpose.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Some 28 cases were notified during the year as compared with 23 in the previous year. The cases numbered 20 pulmonary and 8 non-pulmonary.

The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year totalled 8 as against 9 in the previous year while Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis accounted for 4 as against 2 in 1943.

TUBERCULOSIS — SPUTUM EXAMINATIONS.

101 specimens were examined; 12 were positive and 89 negative.

CANCER.

45 deaths during the year were attributed to cancer as against 58 in 1943.

HOUSING.

During the year, the number of slum clearance families re-housed was 5, and the number of houses represented was 7.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.



GENERAL INSPECTION.

The total number of inspections, interviews and re-visits made is 1,457, and the defects for which informal and formal notices were served number 710.

The following table shows a summary of the principal nuisances and defects (excluding defects under Housing Acts) which have been dealt with :—

Defective and blocked drains	19
Defective and blocked W.C's	34
General defects on property	332
Defective Ashbins	123

The total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year was 368.

173 enquiries were made into cases of infectious disease.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

The system of Joint Meat Inspection carried out at the Dukinfield Slaughterhouse of the Ministry of Food continues to be worked in a satisfactory manner on the rota principle.

The number of visits paid to the Slaughterhouse by your Meat Inspectors was 95, and the amount of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption was as follows :—

Tuberculosis.

Carcase and all organs of 34 beasts.
Part carcase of 33 beasts.
Part carcase of 1 pig.

Offal.

Heads and Tongues	142
Lungs	300
Diaphragm	43
Spleens	22
Livers	85
Hearts	26
Stomachs	25
Mesenteries and Intestines	32
Calves' Livers	6
Calves' Plucks	2

Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Carcase and all organs of 1 Beast.
 Part carcase of 2 Beasts.
 Carcase and all organs of 2 Calves.
 Carcase and all organs of 1 Sheep.

Offal.

Fatty Degeneration...	14	Livers.
Cavernous Angiomata	66	„
Abscesses	21	„
Abscesses	2	Stomachs.
Cirrhosis	68	Livers.
Cysts... ..	7	„
Endocarditis	1	Heart.
Fluke	57	Sheeps' Livers.

All premises where food is stored or prepared are regularly inspected, the number of visits paid being 114.

The following articles of food were examined during the year and condemned as unfit for human consumption :

286 tins Meat	44 1/2 lbs. Cheese.
140 tins Milk	124 lbs. Flour.
220 tins Vegetables	98 lbs. Fish.
180 tins Soup	26 lbs. Sausages.
298 tins Fish	22 lbs. Rice Sweepings.
6 tins Fruit	3 lbs. Rice.
10 tins Jam	4 lbs. Ham.
	151 1/2 lbs. Bacon.
2 Shoulders.	
8 Gammon Hams.	
1 Side Bacon.	
59 2/3 doz. packets egg substitute.	
4 Jars Dog Food.	

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one registered common lodging house and two houses-let-in-lodgings. Occasional visits are paid to these premises and certain defects have been found and remedied during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year there was an extension of sewer from Fitzroy Street to the Besom Lane housing site, 78 yards in length. Apart from this there was no important extension of the sewerage system.

13 drains and 34 W.C's. have been opened by the Department employees.

DISINFESTATION.

Sulphur and insecticide are used for disinfestation and the number of premises treated by this method during the twelve months was 13.

Hydrogen cyanide is used in the case of furniture removals, five van loads being dealt with during 1944.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One set of premises is used for the trade of tripe boiling, two for marine stores, and one for rag and bone dealer. These premises are periodically visited and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

In the Borough there are :—

Factories (with mechanical power)	69
Factories (without mechanical power)	27
Bakehouses	41

79 visits to bakehouses and other factories have been made and attention has been given to defects found on the premises.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Under the above Act the Council agreed to assist the Cheshire County Council in operating their Scheme for dealing with the destruction of rats and mice in the County. For this purpose a Rodent Operative was appointed.

During the year 93 reports of infestation were received and on 83 premises evidence of infestation by rats or mice was observed.

The Rodent Operative treated 67 of the 83 premises infested with very satisfactory results in most cases. 16 contracts for the clearance of rats on industrial premises were signed.

The baits used were sausage rusk and bread mash and the poisons Zinc Phosphide and Barium Carbonate.

SALVAGE.

From the 15th to the 29th April, Stalybridge took part in the Cheshire County Book Drive. During this period a total of 86,741 books was collected, the school children of the Borough being responsible for 68,616 of this total.

The books were sorted and allocated as follows :—

8,200	—	H.M. Forces.
232	—	Children's Hospital.
113	—	Public Library.
78,071	—	Salvage.
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86,616		Total.
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The tonnage of paper realised for salvage from the ' Drive ' was 9 tons 17 cwts.

Below are noted details of the salvage collected during the year :—

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
Paper	116	1	0	2
Ferrous Metals	76	15	1	0
Aluminium		2	3	0
Brass		5	2	0
Lead		4	3	25
Copper			3	10
Spelter and Pewter		1	0	13
Rubber	1	9	3	0
Textiles	4	8	0	0
Bottles (196 gross)	11	10	0	0
Bones	4	9	3	0
Kitchen Waste	217	15	2	0
Old Sacking, String, etc. ...	1	15	2	12
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	435	0	0	6
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During the year 94 loads of kitchen waste were collected and, as previously, the number of communal bins in use at the end of the year was 372.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

2669½ loads of house and trade refuse were collected during the year.

For one week in each month the loads of refuse collected are weighed and from the weights an average load was approximated to be 2 tons 5 cwts. 3 qrs. 22lbs.

266 ashbins were supplied during the year and charged to the owners of the property.

The following table shows the number of ashbins which have received attention during the year :—

Ashbins.	Loads.
234,996	2,669½

The number of ashbins is shown below in each ward, the refuse from which is removed by this Department :—

Lancashire Ward	1684
Stayley Ward... ..	2508
Dukinfield Ward	1314
Millbrook Ward	845

WHITTAKER, PRINTERS, STALYBRIDGE.
